

TRAPEZOIDAL SHAPED PRODUCE BAG WITH PLASTIC ZIPPER**by****Patrick Arnell****RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/564,326, filed May 3, 2000, entitled METHOD OF MANUFACTURING
5 TRAPEZOID-SHAPED PLASTIC ZIPPER BAGS, and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/393,761, filed March 21, 2003, entitled LOCKABLE BAG WITH PLASTIC ZIPPER CLOSURE, the entireties of which are incorporated herein by this reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 This invention relates generally to plastic bags, and more specifically, to plastic bags having zipper openings.

SUMMARY

The invention is a produce bag comprising (a) a pair of perforated side walls forming an enclosed trapezoidal-shaped envelope with an access opening defined between a
5 single pair of side wall edges; and (b) a plastic zipper moiety disposed along each of the single pair of side wall edges at the access opening, the pair of zipper moieties being adapted to nest with one another so to be capable of alternatively zip-closing and zip-opening the access opening.

DRAWINGS

These features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become
better understood with regard to the following description, appended claims and accompanying
15 figures where:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a plastic bag having features of the invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a zipper closure useable in the invention;

Figure 3 is a perspective detail view of the zipper closure illustrated in Figure 2;

and

Figure 4 is a cross-sectional detail view of the plastic bag illustrated in Figure 1,
25 taken along line 4-4.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following discussion describes in detail one embodiment of the invention and several variations of that embodiment. This discussion should not be construed, however, as limiting the invention to those particular embodiments. Practitioners skilled in the art will recognize numerous other embodiments as well.

The invention is a produce bag 10 as illustrated in Figure 1. The produce bag 10 has a pair of perforated side walls 12 attached along three sets of abutting side wall edges 14 to form an enclosed trapezoidal-shaped envelope with an access opening 16 defined between a single pair of non-attached side wall edges 18.

Each of the pairs of perforated side walls 12 is typically made from a soft plastic material. Both of the pairs of perforated side walls 12 are typically of generally uniform thickness, most typically between about 0.0014 and about 0.002 inches.

In one embodiment, the access opening 16 is between about 8 inches and about 14 inches long, the bottom edge 20 opposite the access opening 16 is between about 4 inches and about 8 inches long and the distance between the access opening 16 and the bottom edge 20 is between about 8 inches and about 14 inches.

Typically, both perforated side walls 12 define round holes 22 wherein each of the round holes 22 has a diameter between about $\frac{3}{16}$ inch and about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. In one embodiment wherein the length of the access opening 16 is about 10 inches, the length of the bottom edge opposite the access opening 20 is about 6 inches and the distance between the access opening 16 and the bottom edge 20 is about 10 inches, the diameters of the holes 22 are about $\frac{5}{16}$ inch and the number of such round holes 22 is between about 55 and about 70, for example, 64.

A plastic zipper moiety 24 is disposed along each of the non-attached single pair of side wall edges 18 at the access opening 16. The pair of zipper moieties 24 are adapted to nest with one another, as is illustrated in Figure 4, so as to be capable of alternatively zip-closing the access opening 16 and zip-opening the access opening 16.

In the embodiment illustrated in the drawings, the produce bag 10 further comprises a zipper closure clip 26 which is slidably attached to the single pair of non-attached side wall edges 18 along the access opening 16. The zipper closure clip 26 is typically made from a plastic material. The zipper closure clip 26 is illustrated in detail in Figures 2 and 3.

As illustrated in Figure 3, the zipper closure clip 26 has a pair of opposed clamping surfaces 28 which squeeze the single pair of non-attached side wall edges 18 so as to force the zipper moieties 24 together and to thereby close the access opening 16 when the zipper closure clip 26 is slid along the single pair of non-attached side wall edges 18 in a first direction. As also seen in Figure 3, the zipper closure clip 26 further comprises an opener edge 30 capable of prying apart the single pair of non-attached side wall edges 18 so as to force the zipper moieties 24 apart, and to thereby open the access opening 16 when the zipper closure clip 26 is slid in a second, opposite direction.

Having thus described the invention, it should be apparent that numerous structural modifications and adaptations may be resorted to without departing from the scope and fair meaning of the instant invention as set forth hereinabove and as described hereinbelow by the claims.